

Excerpt from Governor Philipp's Message to the legislature
Jan. 14, 1915 recommending the abolition of the Legislative
Reference Library.*

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

The legislature of 1903 created a legislative reference library. Its purpose was to furnish information to members of the legislature upon such subjects as related to legislation. It has since been converted into a bill drafting institution where proposed laws are furnished upon application without any further effort upon the part of the legislator. This system has had the effect of greatly increasing the number of bills introduced and has resulted in the passage of a great many useless laws. The legislature of 1913 passed 778 bills.

The purpose of the original act creating the library was good. However, we must now judge its value by the record it has made, which I believe to justify the statement that it has exercised an undue influence upon legislation. It has resulted in outside preparation of bills for legislative action, superseding individual legislative study, and greatly impairing legislative efficiency to act as the result of that individual judgment which members of such a body should devote to the work they were elected to perform. Originally projected as a library, it has in every sense become a bureau. I therefore recommend that the law creating the bureau, as it is now known, be repealed. This will have the effect of saving about \$21,000 per year.

* Assembly Journal, 1915, p. 25-26.